

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D 11 APR 2007

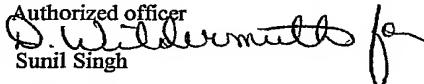
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 110166.000002	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/US04/10147	International filing date (day/month/year) 01 April 2004 (01.04.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC: E21C 35/08(2006.01) USPC: 299/1.9,64;198/301			
Applicant MINING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>2</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u> </u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) <u> </u>, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 28 September 2005 (28.09.2005)	Date of completion of this report 06 February 2007 (06.02.2007)		
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	<p>Authorized officer  Sunil Singh</p> <p>Telephone No. (571) 272-3600</p>		

Box No. 1 Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:

the international application in the language in which it was filed.

a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))

publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))

international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages 1-29 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages 30-36 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages 1/11-11/11 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-24, 26</u>	YES
	Claims <u>25, 27</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-27</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-27</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 25 and 27 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Bessinger et al. (US 4884847).

Bessinger et al. discloses a method of guiding a miner and a conveyor unit through a mineral seam comprising adjusting movement of said miner by controlling angle between miner and conveyor unit (see abstract, Figures and col. 3).

Claims 1-24, 26 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Bessinger et al. in view of Doerr et al. (US 4773520).

Bessinger et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Bessinger et al. is silent about having first and second actuators to adjust the angle between the miner and the conveyor unit. Doerr et al. teaches first and second actuators (50,50a) to adjust the angle between conveyor units. It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Bessinger et al. to include first and second actuators as taught by Doerr et al. since such a modification allows the conveyor to follow in the direction of the miner.

Claims 1-27 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus claims 1-27 have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.